

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 NSC-07 SPC-03 SS-20

RSC-01 ABF-01 IGA-02 AID-20 EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 DRC-01

OMB-01 /144 W

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R 251628Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8691

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSAFE

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 0800

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MASS, EBXP, BE, NE,NO, DA

SUBJ: F-104 REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT

REF:

COPENHAGEN 652, COPENHAGEN 332, OSLO 893

1. MAAG CHIEF MET WITH CHIEF OF THE LOGISTICS SECTION
(CLS) DANISH DEFENSE STAFF ON 21 MARCH. THE SUBJECT
OF REPLACEMENT OF AIRCRAFT IN THE 1980'S WAS DISCUSSED.
CLS INDICATED THAT HE HAD MET WITH HIS NORWEGIAN
COUNTERPARTS WITH RESPECT TO THE F104 REPLACEMENT
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PROGRAM IN EUROPE. THE NORWEGIA DELEGATION WAS

ADVISED THAT DENMARK IS NOW CONSIDERING ROLES AND MISSIONS FOR THEIR AIR FORCES IN THE 1980'S BUT THAT THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE TYPES OF AIRCRAFT TO REPLACE THE SIX SQUADRONS NOW IN OPERATION HAD NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED. HOWEVER, DANES WOULD BE INTERESTED IN JOINING NORWAY, BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS IN SELECTING A COMMON REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT AND WOULD CONSIDER INVESTING MONEY AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME. HE ANTICIPATED MOD COULD OBTAIN PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL TO THE EXTENT REQUIRED TO BUY INTO THE PROGRAM.

2. CLS ADDED PRIVATELY THAT, ALTHOUGH NO AIRCRAFT HAD BEEN SELECTED, HE PREFERRED U.S. PRODUCTS GENERALLY BECAUSE THE U.S. R AND D EFFORTS ARE USUALLY SUPERIOR TO THOSE OF NON-U.S. COMPETITORS. ALSO, U.S. LOGISTICS SUPPORT WAS NORMALLY THE MOST RELIABLE OVER THE LONG TERM, AND TRAINING AND TECHNICAL MANUALS AND OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS IN ENGLISH PRESENT NO PROBLEMS FOR DENMARK. HE ADDED THAT HE FELT THAT PRICE AND LOGISTICAL SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE KEY CONSIDERATIONS IN THE DANISH CHOICE.

ALL AIRCRAFT BRIEFED TO DATE SEEMED TOO EXPENSIVE TO HIM. HE COMMENTED THAT A STRONG STATEMENT FROM THE U.S. PLEDGING LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FOR ANY U.S. ENTRY SELECTED WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IN THE DANISH DECISION. MAAG CHIEF RESPONDED BY POINTING OUT THAT STATE OF THE ART IN AIRCRAFT DEVELOPMENT LED ALL OF THE COMPETITORS TO PRODUCE LIGHTWEIGHT AIRCRAFT IN THE \$4 TO 5 MILLION PRICE RANGE AND THAT THE MORE SOPHISTICATED ENTRIES SUCH AS THE F14 AND 15'S WERE TRIPLE THAT PRICE. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE U.S. HAD ALREADY PLEDGED LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FOR ITS ENTRIES AND THAT THE DANISH MOD HAD BEEN SO INFORMED.

3. CLAS ACKNOWLEDGED THE FOREGOING AND COMMENTED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE NORWEGIAN DELEGATION PLANNED TO CONDUCT SIMILAR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE DUTCH ON 28 MARCH AND THE BELGIANS ON 29 MARCH, AND THAT HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT A CONSORTIUM OF THE FOUR WOULD RESULT.
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4. COMMENT. CLS STATEMENTS REPRESENT A SIGNIFICANT ADVANCE IN DANISH ATTITUDES TOWARD EVENTUAL PROCUREMENT OF F-104 REPLACEMENT. ALTHOUGH DANES UNLIKELY TO MAKE SUBSTANTIAL INVESTMENT IN PROGRAM IN NEAR FUTURE THEY ARE APPARENTLY WILLING TO PROVIDE SOME MONEY AS MEANS OF GETTING THEIR FOOT IN THE DOOR IF AND WHEN CONSORTIUM FORMED.

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